

Message Text

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SUBJ: POLITICAL SUMMARIES: THE WEEK IN COLOMBIA

1. SUMMARY . JULIO CESAR TURBAY, THE UNOFFICIAL PRESIDENT-ELECT WITH A VICTORY MARGIN OF NEARLY 150,000 VOTES, MENTIONED SOME OF HIS ADMINISTRATION'S LIKELY OBJECTIVES, SUCH AS CLOSER TIES WITH COMMUNIST CHINA, DURING HIS VISIT TO EUROPE. THE EDUCATION MINISTER IS EXPECTED TO SIGN AN EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH CUBA WHILE VISITING THERE. THE LOPEZ ADMINISTRATION AGAIN HAS BEEN EMBARRASSED BY THE ALLEGED IMPROPRIETIES OF HIGH OFFICIALS. ABDUCTIONS CONTINUE AS THE MOST SENSATIONAL INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEM, BUT AUTHORITIES HAVE MARKED UP SOME SUCCESSES RECENTLY AGAINST KIDNAPPERS. END SUMMARY.

2. TURBAY DISCUSSES HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND GOALS. PRESIDENT-ELECT TURBAY ADUMBRATED SEVERAL POLICY DIRECTIONS FOR HIS ADMINISTRATION IN STATEMENTS BEFORE AND AFTER HIS DEPARTURE
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FOR EUROPE ON JUNE 25. TURBAY INDICATED THAT HE WOULD ASK FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO TO STAY ON IN THAT POSITION, PROBABLY THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR. HE STATED HIS INTENTION TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA, STARTING FIRST WITH TRADE RELATIONS, IN LINE WITH THE AIM OF "ESTABLISHING BONDS WITH ALL PEOPLES." HE SUPPORTED THE CREATION OF AN INTER-AMERICAN COURT FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, "AS LONG AS

IT DOES NOT INVADE NATIONAL JURISDICTIONS." IN THE INTERNAL SPHERE, HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT LIBERAL PARTY DIRECTIVE BODIES TO BE CHOSEN BY A PARTY CONGRESS ON AUGUST 2 WOULD INCLUDE ALL PARTY FACTIONS, AND THAT THE MAJOR CURRENTS OF BOTH THE LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE PARTIES WOULD BE REPRESENTED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP. COMMENT: TURBAY'S STATEMENTS TEND TO CONFIRM EXPECTATIONS THAT HIS FOREIGN POLICY WILL ESSENTIALLY CONTINUE DIRECTIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE PRESENT AND PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS. THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S DESIRE TO KEEP LIEVANO ON TEMPORARILY IS IN DEFERENCE TO LIEVANO'S ANTICIPATED ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNGA. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL PROBABLY STEP DOWN AT THE END OF HIS TERM. RECOGNITION OF THE PRC WAS ALSO AN ANNOUNCED GOAL OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION BUT WAS NEVER REALIZED NOR APPARENTLY SERIOUSLY PURSUED. TURBAY MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY IN ATTAINING IT, SINCE HE REPORTEDLY WISHES TO MAINTAIN SOME KIND OF TIE WITH THE ROC. ALSO, CONSERVATIVES IN HIS GOVERNMENT WILL OPPOSE RECOGNIZING THE PRC, ESPECIALLY AT THE COST OF A COMPLETE BREAK WITH THE ROC. TURBAY'S HOPE FOR BROAD POLITICAL REPRESENTATION IN THE LIBERAL PARTY AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIPS MAY ALSO MEET FRUSTRATIONS. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, TURBAY'S SUPPORTERS INTEND TO DOMINATE THE PARTY'S DIRECTIVE BODIES AND THEY, TOGETHER WITH CONSERVATIVE SUPPORTERS OF ALVARO GOMEZ, WILL SHARE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, TO THE EXCLUSION OF LLERAS LIBERALS AND PASTRANA CONSERVATIVES. THIS WOULD CREATE RESENTMENTS WHICH MAY COMPLICATE TURBAY'S TASK OF FORMING A CABINET IN WHICH ALL THESE GROUPS WOULD BE REPRESENTED AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REASONABLY SATISFIED.

3. OFFICIAL BULLETIN GIVES TURBAY LEAD OF 147,584 VOTES. ALTHOUGH THE ELECTORAL COURT HAS YET TO DECLARE AN OFFICIAL WINNER IN THE JUNE 4 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, THE FINAL OFFICIAL BULLETIN (NO. 7) FROM THE NATIONAL REGISTRY SHOWS LIBERAL CANDIDATE TURBAY TO BE THE UNOFFICIAL PRESIDENT-ELECT WITH A VICTORY MARGIN OF 147,584 VOTES. THE MOST RECENT ELECTORAL FIGURES RELEASED ARE AS FOLLOWS: TURBAY (LIBERALS) - 2,506,228; BETANCUR (CONSERVATIVES) - 2,358,644; PERNIA (UNO-ANAPO-MIL) - 97,246; VALENCIA (MRN) - 66,123; PIEDRAHITA (FUP) - 27,048; AND RAMIREZ (UNIOS) - 6,649, FOR A TOTAL OF 5,079,224 VOTES (MINOR CANDIDATES MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE) AND AN ABSTENTION RATE OF NEARLY 62 PERCENT.

4. COLOMBIAN MINISTER FIRST TO VISIT CASTRO. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE CASTRO'S ASSUMPTION OF POWER, A COLOMBIAN MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MISSION WILL VISIT CUZA. THE MISSION, WHICH LEAVES COLOMBIA ON JULY 1, WILL BE HEADED BY EDUCATION MINISTER RAFAEL RIVAS POSADA AND WILL INCLUDE RIVAS' VICE-MINISTER DORIS DE ZAMBRANO, COLOMBIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE DIRECTOR GLORIA ZEA DE URIBE, AND NATIONAL UNIVERSITY RECTOR

EMILIO ALJURE NASSER. THE MINISTER IS EXPECTED TO SIGN AN EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CUBANS.

5. MINES AND ENERGY MINISTER, FORMER LABOR MINISTER AND OTHERS FACE OFFICIAL SANCTIONS. MINES AND ENERGY MINISTER EDUARDO GAITAN DURAN, FORMER LABOR MINISTER MONTOYA AND THREE OF THE LATTER'S FORMER VICE-MINISTERS, HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH VARIOUS "ADMINISTRATIVE INFRACTIONS" AND FACE DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE GOVERNMENT (BOGOTA 4055). WHILE THESE CHARGES GENERALLY ARE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE SERIOUS, THEY ARE ANOTHER MINOR EMBARRASSMENT TO THE LOPEZ ADMINISTRATION IN ITS FINAL DAYS.

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6. AUTHORITIES ENJOY SOME SUCCESS AGAINST KIDNAPPERS. COLOMBIANS' CONFIDENCE IN THEIR SECURITY SERVICES WAS STRENGTHENED WHEN UNITS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY (DAS), IN SEPARATE ACTIONS, RESCUED TWO SMALL CHILDREN WHO HAD BEEN ABDUCTED RECENTLY IN BOGOTA BY CRIMINAL GANGS. FARING LESS WELL WAS A RANCHER IN NORTHWEST ANTIOQUIA WHO WAS KILLED WHILE RESISTING ABDUCTION BY A GROUP REPORTEDLY BELONGING TO THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA (FARC). DREXLER

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